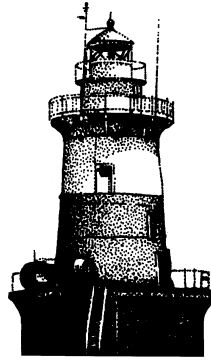


ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

JOHN McDONALD, CHAIRMAN
C. LINCOLN JEWETT, VICE CHAIRMAN
WALTER RALEIGH, SHELLFISH
FRANK KEMP, CLERK
WILLIAM CAVERS
ROBERT MONRO
JON SCHOUEDEL
PALMER SPARKMAN
HENRY STRAUSS
MICHAEL WALLACE



GREEN'S LEDGE LIGHT

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

JANE BRANIGAN, PARK & REC. COMMISSION.
ROBERT PRICE, HARBOR MASTER
CAPT. GARY PAVIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of June 2, 2010 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm in Room 213 by Vice Chairman Jewett.

Present were Chairman McDonald, Vice Chairman Jewett, Commissioners Strauss, Schoudel and Cavers - five members constituting a quorum. Commissioner Sparkman joined at 8:10 PM. Absent were Commissioners Raleigh, Kemp, Monro, Wallace, and Harbor Master Price.

The minutes of the May 5th meeting were approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald reported on his activities over the last month and other general matters:

- 1) He attended two regulatory meetings:
 - a) The CT/DEP Citizens Boating Advisory Council, May 5th meeting at the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium, where a bill concerning the removal of the two hour limit on testing boaters for BUI and a package of 9 new boating regulations were discussed. The 9 regulations concern new safe boating certificate qualifications and on-line courses and certification plans that are up for public hearing June 29th in Old Lyme, CT. The Commission has an active interest in participating in this discussion to insure safe standards are adopted.
 - b) The Long Island Council's Meeting, May 24th at New Haven which set up a meeting July 19th with Brian Thompson from the CT/DEP office, Long Island Sound.
- 2) He reviewed the Commission's response memo to the Gorham Pond Restoration project. The memo is generally supportive of the objectives of the Gorham project, but cautious in supporting its specific improvement claims.
- 3) The upcoming Darien Boat / Camp (July 30) was discussed. The Chairman requested commissioners with motorboats to volunteer or to find other volunteers, if possible.

- 4) The Chairman requested a volunteer for a summer project to investigate how an osprey's nest could be permitted, funded and built somewhere in Darien Harbor. It was noted that the Noroton Yacht Club is currently hosting a growing osprey family at the end of its dock and another resident had built an osprey nest off his property in Goodwives River.
- 5) The Norwalk high-speed ferry to New York was discussed. A permit has recently been issued to the same company that owns the SeaStreak, a weekend NYC to MV ferry service (see NEFastFerry.com). The start-up date of the Norwalk ferry seems uncertain. NEFastFerry is running its NYC to MV ferries on the Sound, Fridays, returning on Sundays.
- 6) Two new, to-be-built piers with docks were discussed. One is being constructed in Zeigler's Cove, extending from Hay Island. It will have a 28' pier, 40' ramp, and 12.5 x 8' (100 square feet) float. Its length is non-conforming (state guideline is length no greater than length to 4' MLW or 40' from shore). The other dock will extend off the Western side of Long Neck Point. It is comprised of a 71' pier and a 41' ramp, with an 8' x 20' float (160 square feet). Despite the non-conformities, charts of the two piers and docks show neither threatening navigation nor shellfish. The Commission's limits in altering state-approved piers and docks was discussed.

Harbor Master's Report

Harbor Master Bob Price was not present. As such, no Harbor Master's Report was given.

Shellfish Report

Commissioner Walter Raleigh was not present. As such, no Shellfish Report was given.

Other Business

- Commissioner Jewett asked all members for final comments and suggestions on his draft "Managing Darien's Coastal Resources" report, which will be submitted to First Selectman David Campbell in the next several weeks. A request was made for someone to create a PowerPoint version of the hand-written chart with lines showing the borders of Darien's waters so that it may be added to the report. Commissioner Cavers volunteered. A suggestion was made by Commissioner Sparkman to add more information on the terms of the commissioners and the manner in which they are appointed.
- The Commission had a general discussion on mooring specifications, prompted by John Geissinger's recent memo to Darien Harbor boaters on optimal mooring components. The discussion centered on whether or not the Commission should recommend altering Darien's minimum mooring specifications. The benefits of an all-chain pennant and Door Moor pyramid anchor were discussed. Commissioner Strauss noted that Darien's harbor is exposed to Southerly and Southeasterly winds and that the harbor has two distinct regions, an inner-Lagoon and an outer Harbor (south of the gazebo), and that boats in these regions may have different mooring requirements. All agreed that the Commission should look into the issue more deeply. Mooring specifications from other yacht clubs and towns on Long Island Sound will be collected. American Yacht Club, for example, has recently switched to a chain pennant and there has been considerable research and thought on the subject in other communities and organizations. It was agreed that this topic should make the summer project list with a decision due in the fall.
- The Commission is entering its summer recess. The Chairman put forward a list of possible summer projects for members to voluntarily undertake. Follow-up action would be planned for the fall. The list of discussed projects were the following:

- Channel Depth Survey – With depth sounder and GPS, undertake an informal survey of the harbor to see what silting has occurred since the 2001 dredging.
- Develop a Darien Commercial Shellfish Policy and Permit – Commissioner Raleigh should address.
- Water quality in Scott's Cove
- Establish osprey nest in Darien coastal waters
- Support Boat / Camp on July 30
- Monitor Darien Boat Club Expansion Plans – Commissioner Jewett to undertake.
- Develop more Data on Mooring Specifications
- Other Projects to be suggested by Commissioners (Commissioner Sparkman suggested he could monitor the Noroton Yacht's Club's plans to comply with upcoming State bottom wash run-off requirements. Commissioner Cavers volunteered to undertake similar monitoring of Five Mile River marinas and other potential bottom wash run-off sites.)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6th, 2010 in Room 213, Town Hall, after the Commission's summer recess.

Respectfully submitted, with thanks to Commissioner Cavers for providing assistance with the minutes of the meeting,

Frank B. Kemp
Clerk